

Message Text

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ACTION PPTE-00

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SCA-01 AID-05 /017 W

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R 251100Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4298

USIA WASHDC

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO CINCPAC

UNCLAS COLOMBO 684

STATE PASS AID

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM REPEATED FOR YOUR ACTION/INFO:

R 241100Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4295

UNCLAS COLOMBO 684

EO 11652:7,/A

TAGS: CPAS, CASC, CE, OTRA, APER

SUBJ: REQUIREMENT THAT ALL FOREIGN VISITORS HAVE VISAS TO
ENTER SRI LANKA JUNE 1 TO AUG 25

1. NEWSPAPER "DAILY MIRROR" REPORTED FEB 20
THAT MDFA HAD ISSUED FOLLOWING PRESS RELEASE: QUOTE
IN VIEW OF THE LARGE NUMBER OF VISITORS EXPECTED IN
SRI LANKA DURING THE NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE IN AUGUST
AND THE PREPARATORY PERIOD PRECEDING IT, IT HAS
BECOME NECESSARY TO REGULATE VISITOR ARRIVALS IN THE
COUNTRY DURING THIS PERIOD. ALL VISITORS TO SRI LANKA
DURING THE PERIOD JUNE 1 TO AUG 25 WILL, THEREFORE,
REQUIRE VISAS FOR ENTRY INTO THE COUNTRY. THE
EXEMPTION OF BONA FIDE TOURISTS OF CERTAIN COUNTRIES
FROM THE REQUIREMENT OF OBTAINING VISAS FOR ENTRY
INTO SRI LANKA WILL BE SUSPENDED DURING THIS PERIOD.
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PAGE 02 COLOMB 00684 251132Z

NON-NATIONALS CONTINUING THEIR JOURNEY THROUGH

COLOMBO TO A THIRD COUNTRY WOULD ALSO REQUIRE TRANSIT VISAS IF THEY ARE NOT CONTINUING THEIR JOURNEY BY THE SAME AIRCRAFT. APPLICATIONS FOR VISAS FOR ENTRY TO SRI LANKA SHOULD BE MADE TO THE SRI LANKA MISSIONS ABROAD. UNQUOTE.

2. MDFA PUBLICITY AND IMMIGRATION OFFICIALS CONFIRM DATES AND POLICY OUTLINED ABOVE AND THAT PROCEDURE APPLIES TO OFFICIAL AS WELL AS NONOFFICIAL VISITORS.

3. OFFICIALS PRESENTLY BELIEVE TOURISTS WILL BE ASKED TO VACATE COLOMBO ACCOMMODATIONS O/A JULY 15; ROOMS IN MAJOR COLOMBO HOTELS HAVE BEEN BOOKED THEREAFTER BY MDFA FOR CONFERENCE VISITORS, AND IN SOME CASES FOR PRE-CONFERENCE SECURITY SWEEPS.

4. OFFICIALS BELIEVE MOST TOURIST VISAS WILL BE ROUTINELY GRANTED JUNE 1 TO JULY 15 AND THAT PERSONS COMING TO STAY WITH EMBASSY FAMILIES OR NOT REQUIRING COLOMBO HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS WILL FIND IT EASIER TO OBTAIN VISAS.

5. SEVERAL QUESTIONS REMAIN UNDECIDED, INCLUDING WHETHER MDFA COLOMBO'S APPROVAL WILL BE REQUIRED ON VISA APPLICATIONS JULY 15 TO AUG 25 AND WHETHER ALLOWANCES WILL BE MADE DURING POST-JULY 15 PERIOD FOR PERSONS WISHING TO VISIT AREAS IN SRI LANKA OUTSIDE COLOMBO AND SUBURBS. THIS IS NORMALLY PEAK TOURIST PERIOD IN KANDY AND ON THE EAST COAST.

6. MDFA PLANS TO SEND NOTES TO RESIDENT DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS AS PLANS BECOME FIRMER. EMBASSY WILL ADVISE DEVELOPMENTS.

7. PLEASE INFORM APPROPRIATE DIPLOMATIC POSTS OF NEW VISA REQUIREMENT AND UNAVAILABILITY OF HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS IN COLOMBO JULY 15 THROUGH AUGUST 25.

VAN HOLLEN

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